

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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R 051335Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8052
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5056

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: WHY ECEVIT LOST THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

1. POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN ANKARA THIS WEEK ARE TRYING TO
ANSWER THE QUESTION OF WHAT WENT WRONG WITH PRIMIN ECEVIT'S
ATTEMPT TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT. THE SIMPLEST ANSWER IS
THAT HIS REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SIMPLY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH
DEPUTIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THAT BECAUSE OF THE GROWTH
OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES IN THE JUNE 5 ELECTIONS THE NUMBER OF
THIRD PARTY DEPUTIES AVAILABLE FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT OR TRANSFER WAS
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INADEQUATE TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE. WHILE THIS IS TRUE,
IT IS ONLY PART OF THE ANSWER AND MANY HERE IN ANKARA BELIEVE
THAT ECEVIT COULD HAVE PULLED IT OFF IF HE HAD BEEN MORE POL-
ITICALLY ADEPT -- IF, IN THE WORDS OF ONE JOURNALIST, HE HAD NOT
DISPLAYED SO MUCH "ROMANTICISM AND HASTE" IN HIS ATTEMPT TO
COME TO POWER.

2 MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET JULY 5 CARRIES ON ITS FRONT PAGE A STORY ENTITLED, "THE RPP MADE 13 MISTAKES AND LOST POWER". THE HURRIYET LIST OF MISTAKES BEGINS WITH THE RPP'S DECISION TO AGREE TO EARLY ELECTIONS AND INCLUDES: --THE PARTY'S DECISION TO ASSIGN CANDIDATES IN SEVERAL EASTERN PROVINCES RATHER THAN ALLOW LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SELECT THEM; --POOR SELECTION OF ASSIGNED CANDIDATES; --PREMATURE VICTORY CLAIMS ELECTION NIGHT; --JUBILANT VICTORY CELEBRATIONS WHICH ANNOYED OR ANTAGONIZED NON-RPP SUPPORTERS; --UNSEEMLY EAGERNESS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT; --REFUSAL TO CONSULT WITH DEMIREL AND TURKES IN THE GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS; --APPEALING TO "SELF-RESPECTING" DEPUTIES FROM OTHER PARTIES TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT; --MISINTERPRETING FEYZIOGLU'S POSITION (I.E., ASSUMING NON-OPPOSITION MEANT SUPPORT); --AGGRAVATING INTERNAL PARTY PROBLEMS BY NAMING A POLITICALLY UNBALANCED GOVERNMENT; --THE AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE OF NEW CABINET MINISTERS WHO IMMEDIATELY OCCUPIED THEIR OFFICES, MADE PERSONNEL CHANGES AND CRITICIZED THEIR PREDECESSORS --WITHOUT WAITING FOR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE; --BY TALKING ABOUT SECRET EFFORTS TO WIN THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, MAKING IT EASIER FOR LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO ENFORCE PARTY DISCIPLINE.

3. THE HURRIYET LIST IS NOT DEFINITIVE BUT IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HINDSIGHT MAKING THE CIRCUIT IN ANKARA THIS WEEK. SUCH HINDSIGHT FEEDS SPECULATION THAT ECEVIT, OR AT LEAST SOME OF HIS SENIOR ADVISORS, WILL BE POLITICALLY DAMAGED BY THE FAILURE TO WIN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. PRESS JULY 5 CARRIES REPORTS OF TURMOIL INSIDE THE RPP. DENIZ BAYKAL, FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE IN ECEVIT'S 1974 GOVERNMENT AND LEADER OF LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS WITHIN THE PARTY, IS ALLEGED TO HAVE ARGUED AFTER THE JUNE 5 ELECTION AGAINST TRYING TO FORM THE MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND TO BE THREATENING TO CALL FOR AN ACCOUNTING IF DEMIREL SUCCEEDS IN PUTTING TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT AND HE RPP DOES NOT GET A SECOND CHANCE. (EMBOFFS ATTENDING JULY 3 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION NOTED THAT WHEN RPP DEPUTIES GAVE ECEVIT A STANDING OVATION AFTER THE LOSS OF THE CONFIDENCE, BAYKAL AND THREE OR FOUR OF HIS CLOSEST SUPPORTERS CONSPICUOUSLY REMAINED SEATED AND APPLAUDED ONLY PERFUNCTORILY.)

4. COMMENT: EVENTUALLY SOME OF THE RPP HIGH COMMAND MAY BECOME POLITICAL VICTIMS OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT. ECEVIT'S POSITION AS PARTY LEADER IS VIRTUALLY UNASSAILABLE, BUT HIS SENIOR LIEUTENANTS, PARTY SECGEN EYUBOGLU AND DEPUTY SECGEN TOPUZ, ARE LIKELY CANDIDATES IF SCAPEGOATS ARE NEEDED. WHETHER OR NOT SCAPEGOATS WILL BE NECESSARY WILL DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF THE POLITICAL CRISIS. PARTY UNITY IS SOMEWHAT SHAKEN IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE JULY 3 DEFEAT; HOWEVER, THE EVENTS OF THE

NEXT SEVERAL DAYS COULD CHANGE THAT SITUATION. AS
DEMIREL, ERBAKAN, AND TURKES HAVE DEMONSTRATED, UNITY IN
OPPOSITION IS MUCH EASIER TO ACHIEVE THAN UNITY IN POWER.
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Message Attributes

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